

REMARKS

Claims 39, 40 and 47 through 52 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 32 and 41 are amended. Thus, by this Amendment, Claims 32 through 38, 41 through 46 and 53 through 61 are presented for examination.

Amended drawings are being prepared (to be filed separately).

The Examiner has rejected Claims 32 through 35, 37, 39, 42, 43 and 46 as allegedly rendered "obvious" by the United States patent of Khoury et al. in view of Schweickert et al. and Shaeffer. Claim 36 is rejected on the preceding basis further in view of the United States patent of Roza. Claim 37 is rejected further in view of the United States patent of Barrett Jr. et al. Claim 38 is rejected as allegedly rendered obvious by Khoury et al. in view of Schweickert et al., Shaeffer and Roza (each as applied to Claim 36) further in view of the United States patent of Xu. Claims 44 and 45 are rejected as allegedly rendered obvious by Khoury et al. in view of Schweickert et al. and Shaeffer (as applied to Claim 32) further in view of the United States patent of Koslov et al. Claims 47 and 49 through 51 are rejected as allegedly rendered obvious by Khoury et al. in view of Schweickert et al. Claim 48 is rejected as obvious by Khoury et al. in view of Schweickert et al. further in view of the United States patent of Therssen. Claim 52 is rejected over

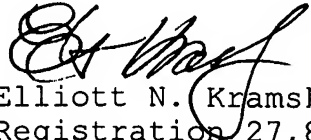
Khoury et al. in view of Schweickert et al. further in view of Koslov et al. Claims 53 through 61 are indicated to define patentable subject matter while Claims 40 and 41 are only objected to for dependence upon a rejected base claim.

Applicant has amended the claims herein, cancelling and/or amending such claims to comply with the outstanding rejections. More specifically, Claim 32 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of former Claims 39 and 40 while Claim 41 has been amended to depend from amended Claim 32, thereby addressing the existing objections to Claims 40 and 41. Rejected Claims 47 through 52 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 33 through 38 and 42 through 46, formerly rejected on the basis of the "original" Claim 32, now depend, either directly or indirectly, from amended Claim 32, which now contains all limitations of formerly objected-to Claim 40. Such claims now therefore define patentable subject matter.

For the foregoing reasons, all presently-pending claims define patentable subject matter. Prompt allowance and issuance of such claims are therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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